Washerkbmut, Aradonga, Dongki inding and Maweit. The remaining will be considered during the 10th Plan period.

Feasibility of HIV/AIDS programmes

*499. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientific forum has challenged the ongoing programme of HIV/AIDS;

(b) whether Government have ordered review of second phase of HIV/AIDS programme;

(c) if so, whether the process has been started;

(d) whether any International Conference was held at Nagpur to ascertain validity of HIV/AIDS programme, including methods of testing;

(e) if so, the particulars of participants, including international experts from foreign countries, broad features of the agenda discussed and the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action initiated by Government to redress the victims of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (f) The ongoing National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II has been formulated after extensive consultations with State Governments, concerned Ministries in the Govt. of India, NGOs and representatives of civil society. The programme was thereafter approved by the Union Cabinet in August, 1999. No scientific forum has challenged the ongoing Programme nor has the Government issued any order for its review.

The President, Academy of Nutrition Improvement, Nagpur, had organised an International Conference on the validity of HIV/AIDS Programme, including methods of testing at Nagpur on 30th & 31st January, 2000. The Conference was attended by fifty participants including representative from WHO, ICMR and some delegates from abroad.

The agenda discussed was: (i) Validity of HIV strains prevalent in India and different parts of the World; (ii) Methods of diagnosis of HIV infection; (iii) HIV infection as the cause of AIDS.

Some of the participants were of the view that the causative agent of AIDS i.e. the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus has not been identified and that there are other diseases which give a false positive test for HIV. The representative from ICMR clarified that several strains of HIV has been isolated in India and elswhere in the world. The present available HIV testing kits are highly sensitive and specific for detection HIV infection and false positive results do not occur at any significant level, provided the procedure for testing is correctly followed. As far as the efficacy of antiretroviral drugs in prevention of mother to child transmission is concerned. It has been scientifically proved to be an effective way to prevent HIV transmission in newborns.

It was the impression of representatives of ICMR and WHO that some of the participants had biased opinions which were not scientifically sound and did not know much about national and international scientific status of HIV research.

Also, it is a well established scientific conclusion that HIV is the causative organism for AIDS.

Assistance for Computer Education in Andhra Pradesh Schools

*500. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government for providing Rs. 12.54 crores for introducing computer education in schools has been withheld in the Ministry of Human Resource Development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when would it be cleared for opening computer education at the rate of one high school in each mandal with a provision of matching 251 lakhs by the State Government?